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20 March 1952

Sent 24 Mar 52

Mr. Malcolm A. Frost
Head, BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, England

Dear Malcolm:

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 1952. I appreciate being kept advised of developments which may have an effect on FBIS as well as BBC operations.

It is sincerely hoped that your economies can be made without serious consequences to the excellence of the BBC Monitoring Service. It is my personal feeling that the damage done by cutbacks is repaired only through long and arduous training and negotiations, and therefore every effort should be made to maintain the advances which our two services have achieved.

Having considered alternate arrangements which might be introduced should FBIS have to undertake the transmission of monitored material from Cyprus with less aid from the BBC, we have reached the conclusion that in this event we should be forced to reopen the question of authority to use the State Department transmitter at Nicosia. There appear to be no other feasible alternatives. Although not immediately faced with any budgetary cuts, it is quite possible that this being an election year economies will be demanded of us and certainly any proposal to increase our expenditures would meet with disapproval.

One of our strong justifications for our expenditures is the greater scope made possible through our reciprocal arrangement on monitoring. Although it has not been directly raised as yet, I anticipate that some day we may be called on to justify in a similar manner the communication aspect of our relationship. Our actual expenditures for communications already exceed the cost of the Cyprus to London Cable and Wireless service, and in addition we call heavily on the service supplied by the ACS without direct charge to FBIS but at considerable expense to the Government.

I have had very good reports on the results of Usherwood's assignment to Okinawa. Our editors feel that he has contributed substantially to their understanding of your requirements. This awareness of BBC will

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of course diminish with time unless a representative of yours is there in a liaison capacity. Meanwhile we shall endeavor to maintain the procedures and principles established by Wilson and Usherwood.

Sincerely,

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AMW:ljw

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